

Good News Letter

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By the time this finds you, Thanksgiving will be past and Advent bearing down. I hope all of you shared a wonderful experience with family and friends over the Thanksgiving weekend, and I look forward to all we do together in the celebration of Christmas.

There are several things to mention; The PIN packing day on December 9, the annual Soup 'n Sing service and meal on December 15, the youth Christmas party on the 16th and the candlelight service on Christmas Eve. We have collected gifts for three foster children and will encourage giving to support the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) throughout December. Details about all of these events can be found in other parts of this newsletter.

I do want to briefly mention the Prayer Chest ministry that will begin on December 2 as a part of our Year for Prayer. We are offering the opportunity to pray for one another in a more intentional way. Just take a name out of the box and commit to praying for that person throughout the week. I pray this new activity will help draw us nearer to one another and to God

In all of it, keep in mind the significance of the season, which is the celebration of Christ's birth, the Incarnation. In the language of the Gospel of John, the Word has become flesh and lived on

December



earth among people. The idea of it is simple enough, but the profundity staggers the imagination.

The divide between heaven and earth, the eternal and the temporal, the divine world of justice, love, and peace, and the human world of sin and death and malice, has all been overcome.

Everything we do at this season of the year; the decorations, the music, the lighting of candles, the giving of gifts, are but insignificant attempts to acknowledge the magnitude of the grace that is Christmas. May God bless you with great joy throughout the season.

Merry Christmas,
-Mark

From Our Pastoral Intern

We have made it to the final month of 2018! While we are in the mindset of thankfulness and prepare ourselves and our church for the Advent season, we look

back at an eventful 2018 and all that we have accomplished. While there are things that we wish and wonder we had done differently, we come to the end of 2018 with eyes affixed on what will await us when the clock strikes midnight on the 31st. We remember all of the ups and downs, highs and lows, all chapters within this larger book of 2018 that we are soon about to pen our final words. Onward and upward to 2019 and all that it will bring!

We give thanks to all those who participated in the outdoor clean up last weekend, where we picked up 24 bags of yard material in total! During the month of December, the youth will continue in their tradition of assisting with the PIN Packing Day on December 8th. On December 16th, the youth will meet at Pastor Mark's house to celebrate the year with their annual youth Christmas party.

Blessings and Peace,
-David L. Harris, Jr.

The Prayer Chest

As another activity in our Year for Prayer, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, there will be a prayer chest on a stand in the Welcome Center. Inside the chest will be little slips of paper with the name of a member of our church fellowship.

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It is our hope that every Sunday morning people will voluntarily select a prayer slip to take with them in the hopes that they would pray for that person throughout the coming week. You may even wish to contact the person with a visit, a phone call, a card, or an e-mail and let them know you are praying for them that week. Feel free to make use of the greeting cards that Genevieve Peterson provides us that are found in a box in the Gathering Place. You may wish to remain anonymous, and that is all right too. It is purely your choice.

There is no need to return the slip of paper to the chest. When the chest is empty, we will replenish it with new prayer slips. If you happen to draw out your own name, that is OK. There is nothing wrong with praying for yourself and your own needs. If you happen to draw out the name of someone you do not know very well, you can still pray for that person, and maybe you will find a way to get to know that person better that week.

The purpose of the Prayer Chest is to encourage our fellowship to always be in prayer for each other; it is not meant to replace our weekly "Joys and Concerns" or the Deacons' prayer list.

Volunteers For December

Fellowship Time

Dec 2 Grubbs
Dec 9 Lovell
Dec 16 Volunteer Needed
Dec 23 Lee
Dec 30 Volunteer Needed

Panera Pick-Up

Dec 6 Lovell
Dec 13 Faulk
Dec 20 Grubbs
Dec 27 Volunteer Needed

Rides for David Harris

Dec 2 Volunteer Needed
Dec 9 Volunteer Needed
Dec 16 Volunteer Needed
Dec 23 Volunteer Needed
Dec 31 Volunteer Needed

As you can see, there are many open spaces to be filled by volunteers. There are sign-up sheets in the Gathering Place for the winter quarter. Any help you give is much appreciated.

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO)

The RMMO is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the personal ministries which demonstrate the ongoing impact that retired ministers and missionaries make in the community. It provides financial support for the retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses who have helped build our churches and American Baptist witness. Through the RMMO we have an opportunity to highlight the congregation's love for all of the ways that spiritual leaders have contributed to our lives. Several members and past members of our fellowship will receive a check from the RMMO this year, such as Sophia Stephenson, Ken and Genevieve Peterson, Alvin and Bev Cox, Ellen and David Brown, Harold and Deb Van Broekhoven, and Tim and Kathy Chesser. This is a way of saying thank you each year to our retirees. Our goal is \$700. Please give generously.

Pam Faulk

Christmas Offering

The offering in the Christmas envelopes will go to Andrews House.

Holiday Wish Program

FBC is again sponsoring three foster children for Christmas this year: Teresa (age 13), Mike (age 5), and Britt (age 9). Wish lists can be found on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. We encourage you to donate items to make their Christmas a joyous occasion. Toys, clothes, and gift cards or money to buy gifts are welcomed. Please do not wrap the gifts, just label them for each child. We will need to have the gifts at the church by Sunday, December 9.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



December

4 Erin Faulk
Jim Snyder
8 Phyllis Beasley
11 Hannah Nace
12 Samuel Allison
17 Pat Gosser
25 Carol Grubbs
27 Cory Lawrence
Jim & Jane Snyder
28 Sharon Baker
29 Harold & Deb
VanBroekhoven

Please report any errors.

Personals

- Former member Kathy Russell suffered a heart attack and has undergone surgery and is awaiting more stints.
- David Harris traveled home to Pittsburgh after the mass shooting there in his neighborhood.
- Pat Gosser recently returned from a trip to Nice, France with her son and daughter-on-law.

• Former member Penny Hagaman is now under Hospice Care.

• Jim Snyder was recently hospitalized with gout and then pancreatitis. He is recovering.

• Ben Turner's son Jack was recently diagnosed with anemia. Ben has moved into an apartment in Delaware and has started a new job at Advanced Auto.

• Randy Turner took a trip to West Virginia to visit family and to make apple butter.

• Pastor Mark Allison spent Thanksgiving in Missouri with his sons.

• Jeff Faulk and his family spent a few days with Pam and Larry Faulk recently.

• Dave and Mary Lou Lovell traveled to Michigan to visit former member Jean Osborne.

• Aidan Ferguson was named on the Distinguished Honor Roll and Will Fogle was named on the Merit Roll at Hayes High School for the first quarter. Congratulations guys!

Soup and Sing

Our fourth annual SOUP AND SING will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15th at 4 p.m. We will gather in the sanctuary to sing Christmas Carols and then enjoy your favorite homemade soups and have fellowship time.

Check the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place to make sure you get the chance to make a crockpot of your favorite soup.

We are inviting the congregations of Second Baptist, Zion UCC, and Central Community Baptist Church to join us. Bring family and friends to share in the Christmas season!

Second Annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon

Again this year the ladies are going to have a Christmas luncheon with the ladies from Second Baptist being invited. The lunch will be on Saturday, December 8 at noon. There will also be a white elephant gift exchange.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place for people who

wish to bring food. There is also a sign-up sheet to say if you are coming and how many guests you will bring. We are looking forward to a rousing good time like we had last year.

Go Paperless

If you no longer need the paper version of "The Good News," there are two ways to "go paperless."

The newsletter is available in pdf form on our website at www.fbcdelaware.org. Just click on the "Newsletter" link on the left side of our home page to see a list of recent newsletters. We publish next month's newsletter on the last Sunday of each month. Newsletters from the previous three years are also available on our website.

A second method to receive the newsletter is by email. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you shortly after it publishes each month, please send me your email address to be added to the mailing list.

-Larry Faulk, editor

Fourth Annual Soup & Sing

Saturday, Dec. 15th
4 p.m.



Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.
Please send changes to Larry Faulk (lfaulk01@aol.com).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Jim Brown	Recovery and Rehab
Raeleen George	Health Issues
Archie Trigg	Eye Surgery Recovery
Penny Hagaman	Hospice Care

Remember daily all the men and women in the military — Those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

**Andrews House
Christmas Cupboard &
Silent Auction**

Saturday, Dec. 1st
39 West William St.
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Andrews House
Christmas Cupboard**

The annual Andrews House Christmas Cupboard will be Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During that time you can select your favorite Christmas cookies and put them in a pizza box for \$12.

Are you a baker? You have an opportunity to help with this by donating homemade Christmas cookies.

They need to be taken to Andrews House between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. You may also purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a week stay in Florida or a stained glass nativity. Raffles will begin at 1 p.m.

**People In Need
Holiday Clearing House**

Donations of non-perishable food items, new clothing, and new toys will be accepted at the Delaware County Fair Coliseum (236 Pennsylvania Ave.) through Dec. 7th. There will be a food drive Dec. 1 from 9 a.m.-1p.m. Volunteers collect food throughout Delaware.

Packing of donated items will be Dec. 8th from 9 a.m. -noon. The youth and anyone who wants to join them will be packing bags. Last year 2,000 adults and children were served. 1,000 bags of groceries were packed in 3 hours.

278 seniors were given food and gifts.

This is a great way to spend a few hours to help those in our community be blessed at Christmas.

Our box for People In Need is in the Vestibule for your donations of nonperishable food.

Thank You Notes

>Thank you for your participation in the 2018 CROP Hunger Walk. As a community we raised \$6,734.31. Hungry people near and far are grateful.
Peace,
Rev. Philip Wilden, Walk Coordinator

>We appreciate the wonderful dinner you all prepared and served this evening- everyone enjoyed it! It was nice having Mark join us at the table too. Please extend my appreciation to him and to Linda, Pam, Pat, Jane, and MaryLou!! You all have been such faithful partners.

Nancy and Bonnie (Stepping Up)

>A big thank you goes out to our congregation for you generous offering of \$767 for the World Mission Offering. We made our goal !!!

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service**

6:45 p.m. Violin preludes
Claire Turner, solo
"O Holy Night"
Choir Anthem

Candlelight "Silent Night"

Change For Change

I would like to thank everyone for contributing their loose change last month. We collected \$189 in loose change for the Delaware Summer Lunch Program for children. There is a container on the table in the Welcome Center for you to deposit your change if you do not wish to hold onto it until the next time, so you can contribute your change throughout the year.
Pam Faulk

Brothers All

All men (youth and adult) who like to sing are invited to join Brothers All. The next practice is Sunday, Dec 2 at 1:30.

**New Addresses for
the Church Directory**

Jarrold and Nichelle Trigg
341 Bishopsbridge,
Cincinnati, OH 45255

Ben Turner
304 South Henry Street,
Apt. 103,
Delaware, OH 43015